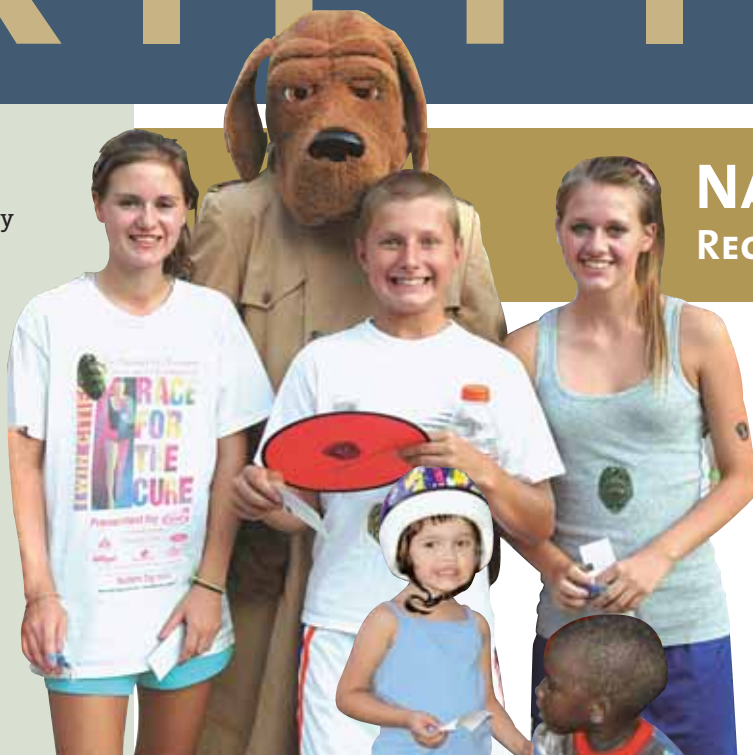


OCTOBER 2007

- PAGE 2. Beautifying Bloomington by Mayor Gene Winstead.
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- PAGE 4. Caring for our community.
- PAGE 5. Building a stronger Bloomington.
- PAGE 6. Earth Action Heroes.
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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR BLOCK PARTIES

THE 24TH ANNUAL NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO) EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE largest turnouts ever as more than 360 neighborhoods hosted block parties on August 7.

“We had a fantastic turnout,” said Officer Niki Pierson. “Every City fire rig and every squad car was out; it was awesome.”

Lots of special visitors, including Mayor Winstead, members of the City Council and Officer McGruff attended the block parties. There were also plenty of games, raffles and giveaways. The Bloomington Police Department was presented with a \$7,000 grant from the Bloomington Crime Prevention Association.

A crime, drug and violence prevention program, NNO is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness.
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs.
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.
- Send the message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

For more information, call Niki Pierson at 952-563-8808.

National Night Out is an evening of family fun that everyone can enjoy!



Farmers Market's last call for fresh produce, Saturday, October 6.

BLOOMINGTON TO CELEBRATE 150 YEARS HISTORICAL PHOTOS AND STORIES REQUESTED

BLOOMINGTON WILL CELEBRATE ITS 150TH anniversary in 2008. Do you have historical photos or stories you'd like to share? If so, submit them to City of Bloomington Communications, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431, by calling Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or visiting the Special Projects section on the home page of the City's Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. Please do not mail your photos. Contact us to make arrangements for submission.

BLOOMINGTON VETERANS HONORED



THE CREEKSIDE VETERANS WALL WILL BE on display at Creekside Community Center from mid-October through November. The wall of more than 100 photos of Bloomington veterans pays tribute to their valiant service to our country. If you would like to submit a photo of yourself or a loved one pictured in uniform, bring the photo to the main office at Creekside. Photos submitted last year will be included in the 2008 display. For more information, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

OLD TOWN HALL EXTERIOR RENOVATION COMPLETE RENOVATION RETAINS INTEGRITY OF ORIGINAL DESIGN

THE EXTERIOR OF OLD TOWN HALL, AT PENN AVENUE AND OLD Shakopee Road, has been restored to its original 1892 appearance.

The landmark is in a historic part of the city and one of the last old town halls in the metropolitan area, according to Parks and Recreation Supervisor Mark Morrison.

Frerichs Construction Company began the stabilization and rehabilitation of the 115-year-old building in March. The goal of the restoration effort was to preserve Bloomington's past and present identity and to ensure that standards for historical preservation were maintained. Many features of the building's exterior were recreated to mirror the original.

“Architectural details were replicated from old photographs of the building,” said Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Jim Eiler. “We recreated the cupola, as the original one was removed many years ago, and replaced the old window shutters with replicas of the original arched frames with gingerbread trim.”

The \$740,000 exterior restoration project also included replacing asphalt shingles with cedar shakes, replacing glass doors with wooden doors and removing the stucco to install wood siding. In addition, a fire protection system was installed to help preserve the building for years to come.

How much have design and construction practices changed since the original was built? Not much, according to Eiler.

“Skilled craftsmen still do most of the work by hand. Now they use a nail gun instead of a hammer, but the work is still very labor intensive.”

The City is landscaping and constructing a new parking lot and accessible entrance.

The Old Town Hall will continue housing the Bloomington Historical Society. The Society is raising \$140,000 toward the exterior renovation of Old Town Hall. To purchase an engraved brick or make a donation, call 952-881-4327.

For more information, call Mark Morrison at 952-563-8693.



Photo credit: Vonda Kelly



The original cupola was recreated from details captured in historical photographs.



Replicas of the original shutters were installed, complete with arched frames and gingerbread trim.

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

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MAXIMIZING CURB APPEAL
MAINTAINING DESIRABLE PROPERTIES

By Mayor Gene Winstead

BLOOMINGTON RESIDENTS KNOW WHY this city is a great place to live and work. However, as the ownership of our single-family homes passes to the next generation, how do we maintain this pride in our community? Survey results from the City’s strategic planning process revealed that “maximizing the desirability of residential and commercial areas” was a top priority of residents. This was second only to “creating a community where residents and visitors are safe.” Clearly, maintaining and creating desirable neighborhoods is important for several reasons, including protecting property values, creating a sense of community and securing future economic vitality.

The nuisance control program is one way the City plays an active role in maintaining desirable neighborhoods. Systematic inspections are the primary way violations are discovered. A majority of the violations and orders for correction are accomplished through this process, but resident complaints are an important backup mechanism. Environmental Health investigates nearly 200 resident complaints each month, responding to reports of code violations, such as tall grass or weeds, abandoned vehicles, items stored in yards and deteriorated home exteriors.

More than 95 percent of all residential violations are corrected by

the property owner after a verbal or written notice is received. Inspectors spend a significant amount of time explaining the City’s requirements and the reasons behind them. This educational component results in only a small percentage of violations that needs to be resolved by fines or court appearances.

Because enforcement is the last resort, the City needs residents to help maintain neighborhoods. Talk to your neighbor or block captain if you see an issue in your neighborhood. Helping your neighbor recognize the problem and take corrective action before it gets out of hand is a much more effective way to build neighbor-to-neighbor relationships than by calling in a complaint.

Because backyard diplomacy does not always work, call the Environmental Health Division at 952-563-8934, e-mail a complaint to envhealth@ci.bloomington.mn.us or use our online form at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Nuisance form. Give the inspector time to observe the violation and talk to the property owner to resolve the issue. Resolutions occasionally take a while, due to unforeseen complexities of the issues faced. Your patience with the process is appreciated.



Ten years ago, when Bloomington started systematically inspecting residential neighborhoods, it was an innovative concept. Now, many first-tier suburbs are following our example. This year, Bloomington started systematic inspection of commercial properties modeled on the concepts learned from the residential nuisance program. In the first three months, systematic commercial inspections resulted in corrections of more than 140 violations.

With more than 25,000 single-family homes, 10,000 multi-family homes and 1,900 commercial properties in Bloomington, nuisance control is a big job. We need your help in keeping the city looking great and making Bloomington’s neighborhoods desirable places to live, work and play. For more information, visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Environmental Health.

2008 GENERAL FUND BUDGET
COUNCIL APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET AND LEVY

AT ITS SEPTEMBER MEETING, THE CITY Council approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$52,040,084, a 4.73 percent increase from the 2007 budget of \$49,690,289.

For a Bloomington resident with a median-valued home of \$247,900, the **cost for City services would decrease**

\$0.83 per month in 2008 for a monthly payment of \$61.77. The median-valued home averaged a 1.3 percent increase in market value in 2007, up \$3,100 from 2006. This has resulted in some tax levy shift to commercial properties as their values have risen at a higher rate than median residential values. Because the

The Truth in Taxation
Hearing is **Monday, December 3, at 6 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza.

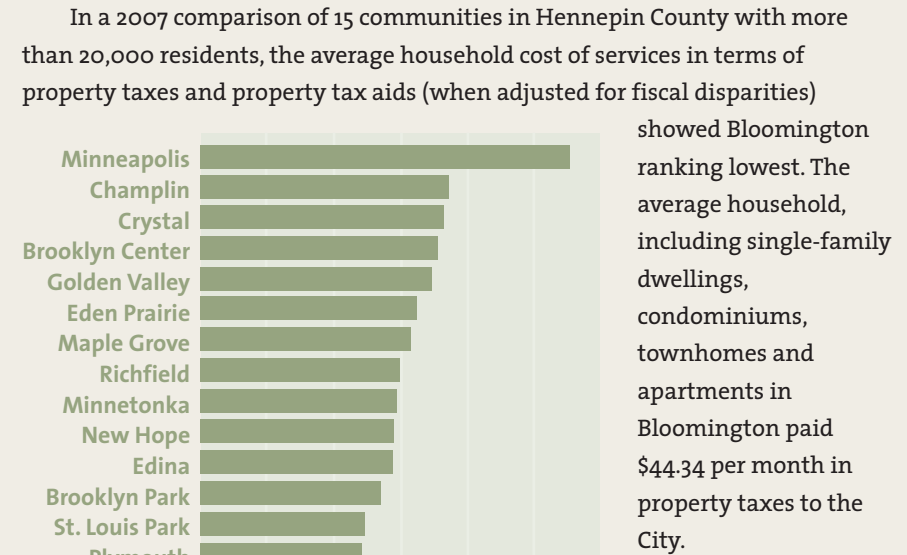
total value of city property increased, the overall tax capacity rate for the City will decrease for taxes payable in 2008.

The approval of a preliminary levy of \$42,053,864 for 2008, a 4.97 percent increase from 2007, in part, anticipates the possible loss of market value credit from the state in 2007.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. This allows the City to adjust for anticipated 2008 economically-sensitive resources, including a potential state reduction in market value credit during the 2008 Legislative Session. Any reduction is based on the projected financial conditions in the state’s November economic forecast. If the 2008 levy increase is approved at this preliminary level, the average annual increase in the City’s levy from 1994 - 2008 will be 3.4 percent.

City staff uses a five-year planning model that considers both short-term and future needs of our community to recommend a preliminary levy.

BLOOMINGTON RANKS WELL
HENNEPIN COUNTY TAX RATE COMPARISON



Volume 15, Number 5

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

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Karl Keel, <i>Public Works</i>	952-563-8731
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The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; (952)563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY).

Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

RANCH REDUX PRESERVE THOSE SPECIAL FEATURES

IN MINNESOTA, THE RANCH (OR RAMBLER, AS IT’S COMMONLY CALLED) IS ubiquitous. In Bloomington alone, more than 12,000 people own a rambler. As many of these postwar homes approach their 60th birthdays, the topic du jour among rambler enthusiasts is how to renovate while preserving the integrity of the original design.

If you’re thinking of renovating your rambler, before you pick up that hammer, consider this advice from National Trust for Historic Preservation Program Officer Jeanne Lambin.



Q What is the first thing you tell someone who’s thinking of remodeling their rambler?

A Do some research. These homes are more desirable now so there are many resources out there. Go to Amazon.com and look for style books on updating ranches. Alan Hess wrote a great book called *The Ranch House*.



Q What makes for a good rambler renovation?

A Staying in the home for awhile and getting to know it. What makes it unique? What features make it special? Figure out the answers to these questions and you can figure out how to update the home while preserving those special features. Look at style books from the period to see how the architects envisioned people living in them.

Q Would you recommend hiring an architect?

A If you’re going to demolish walls, consult an architect. Make sure they have experience working with homes from that era and make sure they show you examples of their work.

Q What is a big “don’t”?

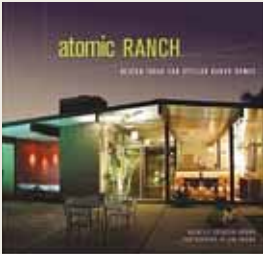
A People think they need vinyl siding and new windows to update a rambler. Vinyl siding and new windows, especially if you’re going for the stock off-the-rack windows, don’t provide more energy efficiency or increase value and both can radically change the character of a house.

Q What about decorating?

A Try to maintain the interior features of the kitchen and bathroom. Manufacturers now make great retro-looking materials. Again, look at style books and magazines and make sure you take photos of your work.

RAMBLER RESOURCES

- *Ranch Houses Are All Not the Same*, an online PDF by David Bricker.
- *Atomic Ranch: Design Ideas for Stylish Homes* by Michele Gringeri-Brown. *Photo left.*
- *Atomic Ranch*, a quarterly magazine devoted to 1940s-1970s ranch homes.
- *The Ranch House* by Alan Hess, an overview of the history and evolution of ranch houses.



PARKS/OPEN SPACES A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH IT’S strategic plan and community investment program, the City is undertaking a comprehensive update of Bloomington’s Park Master Plan that will help establish:

- A 20-year vision for park, recreation, open space, cultural and historical preservation, public art, and trail and bikeway systems.
- A program that includes estimated costs and funding sources.
- Capital funding priorities for park improvements and acquisitions.
- Programming priorities for recreation, historical and cultural systems.
- Policies and priorities for preserving natural features and amenities.

To gather public input for the plan, a community open house will be held **Tuesday, October 16, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers, 1800 W. Old Shakopee Road. For more information, call Parks and Recreation Manager Randy Quale at 952-563-8877, e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Park Master Plan.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE



NEW TOOL FOR MOTORISTS

For an easy-to-remember link to current road construction, visit www.cityroads.info.

county and City dollars. During the majority of construction, one lane of traffic in each direction will remain open.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY NOW IS THE TIME TO REVIEW SAFE TRANSPORTATION BEHAVIORS

THIS IS THE TIME OF YEAR FOR TEACHERS, caregivers and parents to teach and remind children to practice safe behaviors when walking, biking or riding the bus to and from school.

“Parents and caregivers need to remember that children are not small adults and need help crossing the street – especially if they are 10 years old or younger,” said Bloomington Police Officer Bret Anderberg.

There are also specific safety rules children need to understand before they ride the bus or bike to school. Officer Anderberg encourages teaching and reinforcing safety rules early in a child’s life so they develop lifelong good habits.

For more information and a list of safety tips, call 952-563-8861 or visit the City’s Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keywords: Safety lessons.



ROAD CONSTRUCTION AIMS TO IMPROVE SAFETY EAST BUSH LAKE ROAD RECEIVES A MAKEOVER

IMPROVEMENTS ARE UNDERWAY AT 84TH Street and East Bush Lake Road that will reduce congestion and improve safety. The project is funded from a variety of sources including federal,



BLOOMINGTON RESPONDS

CITY OFFICIALS ON SITE AT I-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE

THE CITY’S FIRE AND POLICE OFFICIALS were among the first responders to arrive at the I-35W bridge collapse.

“Just hours after the collapse, the City met with command staff from various government and law enforcement agencies,” said Bloomington Chief of Police John Laux.

Officers from the Bloomington Police Department were in charge of command post security and maintained two supervisors and 12 officers for the first four days after the collapse. Chief Laux said he used officers from various assignments so as not to impact any one division.

Fire Chief Ulie Seal, one of the leaders of Minnesota Task Force 1, an urban search-and-rescue team composed of structural collapse specialists, was a major contributor to the rescue and recovery effort.

Chief Seal continues a systematic review and revision of Bloomington’s Emergency Operations and Continuity of Operations plans.

“The plans are in place so if the City is affected by a disaster we will be prepared,” said Chief Seal. “By continuing to maintain operations, if the government were to lose personnel, facilities or infrastructure, especially in a longer-term emergency such as a pandemic flu, we could continue to provide services to citizens.”



UPROOTED TREES THROUGHOUT CITY STORM EMERGENCY DECLARED

HEAVY RAINS AND HIGH WINDS IN August resulted in localized street flooding, significant tree damage, structural damage and widespread power outages. Bloomington’s Mayor and City Council authorized a storm debris cleanup following the severe weather that passed through the city August 11. More than 60 Public Works employees picked up 6,000 truckloads of storm-damaged trees, brush and debris citywide. After another storm on August 28, the City extended the tree and brush pick up deadline. The cleanup was completed mid-September.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH
SAGE WOMEN’S CLINIC OFFERS FREE SCREENINGS

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BREAST CANCER Awareness Month – time to remind everyone about the importance of screening for early detection of breast cancer. According to statistics from the Minnesota Department of Health, an average of 160 deaths occur each year in Hennepin County due to breast cancer.

“If all women age 40 and older took advantage of early detection methods – mammography plus clinical breast exams – breast cancer death rates would drop by up to 30 percent,” said Bloomington Public Health Program Manager Karen Stanley. “Our Sage Clinic helps to make early detection possible for everyone.”

Sage Women’s Clinic in Edina offers free breast and cervical cancer screening to women age 40 and older who are uninsured or underinsured and who meet income guidelines. Further diagnostic services are available to women needing the services and staff will assist women in locating necessary resources for treatment.

A new program called SagePlus also allows women to receive cardiovascular screening and the opportunity to select nutrition and exercise goals.

For information or to schedule an appointment, call 1-888-643-2584.

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES OFFERED IN OCTOBER



HUMAN SERVICES CELEBRATES DisAbility Employment Awareness Month in October. This month-long effort provides an opportunity for people with disabilities to learn about job-searching skills via the Internet, resume writing and self-advocacy skills. Businesses learn about the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities. For a complete list of activities to be offered during October, visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: DEAM or call Human Services at 952-563-4957 V/TTY.

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS
ALAZAR AND ENDALKACHEW PRACTICE ENGLISH THROUGH PLAY



EVERY SUMMER, KIDS FROM ALL OVER BLOOMINGTON flock to the City’s Summer Adventure Playgrounds. This summer, Westwood Park welcomed two brothers from Ethiopia.

Adopted in April, Bloomington residents Alazar, age 9, and Endalkachew, age 6, quickly assimilated through the City’s summer park program. Though the boys began their summer at Westwood speaking very limited English, by August, Alazar was one of the biggest jokers in the park and Endalkachew, despite being one of the youngest kids in the program, became one of the most enthusiastic athletes in the program.

Both boys enjoy sports, water games, swimming and teaching staff members words in their native language, Amharic.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
COME JOIN THE FUN AT YOUR FIRE STATION’S OPEN HOUSE



FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSES			
Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.			
STATION NO.	ADDRESS	STATION NO.	ADDRESS
1	10 West 95th St.	4	4201 W. 84th St.
2	10601 Xerxes Ave. S.	5	10540 Bush Lake Road
3	2050 E. 86th St.	6	8601 Lakeview Road

ALSO STOP BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY OPEN HOUSE!
7525 Braemar Blvd., Edina, at the N.E. corner of I-494 and Hwy. 169

THE CITY’S SIX FIRE STATIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY CELEBRATE National Fire Prevention Week with an open house on **Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Firefighters, Police and Public Works staff will be on hand, along with a variety of activities, demonstrations and tours. Free t-shirts and temporary tattoos will be available for kids. For more information, call 952-563-4801.

LET’S TALK
CONVERSATION STARTERS FOR BUSY FAMILIES



THREE YEARS AGO, BLOOMINGTON Public Health created Let’s Talk tins – a conversation-starter resource for families with children ages 10 and up. The tins include a collection of questions; some questions are fun and others focus on topics like alcohol, drugs, relationships and bullying.

Due to the program’s huge success, an enhanced version was recently developed with new questions, parent tips and activity suggestions.

For more information about talking to your kids, visit the Tri-City Partners’ Web site at www.tricitypartners.org. Tri-City Partners works to promote health, reduce risks and build assets in youth in Bloomington, Edina and Richfield.

Let’s Talk tins may be purchased for \$5 and are available in both English and Spanish. To purchase tins, call Public Health Specialist Laurie Masanz at 952-563-8904.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY

HOPKINS BRIAR FIELD FARM - 1900

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, JOE AND Leigh Hopkins grew black raspberries on their farm located along the Minnesota River bluff and valley at the end of what is now Lyndale Avenue. In addition to farming, the Hopkins operated a ferry from 1907 to 1921. The ferry was used to transport wagons, farm equipment, hay, logs, firewood and cattle across the Minnesota River. In 1912, Leigh Hopkins bought a used steam-powered pumping plant and installed it on the north bank of the river near the Hopkins Ferry landing. River water was pumped through a six-inch pipe at about 600 gallons per minute to irrigate the raspberry fields.

Source: “Bloomington on the Minnesota.”



Photo credit: Minnesota Historical Society

BUSH LAKE - A TRUE TREASURE
TOP NOTCH BEACH ENJOYS BUSIEST SEASON IN YEARS

ON AVERAGE, BUSH LAKE BEACH SEES more than 100,000 visitors per year and this year was no exception. Yet, as beach attendance skyrocketed, bacteria counts dropped significantly, thanks to an innovative new treatment employed by the City.

Staff efforts have significantly improved bacterial water quality at the beach, *see chart below*.

“Since 2005, we have periodically treated a swath of beach sand along the water’s edge with a diluted concentration of chlorinated water. Since 2006, we have focused on deterring gulls and geese with Mylar fencing and the help of a resident volunteer,” said Environmental Health Program Coordinator Jeff Luedeman. “We started this project to improve bacterial water quality, protect

beach users and prevent unnecessary beach closures.”

The project has been so successful that the City was asked to present its findings at the Minnesota Environmental Health Association’s annual meeting and the National Environmental Health Association’s annual education conference. The presentations focused on the successful impact of the chlorine treatments and Mylar fencing on water-borne bacterial since 2003.

Although experimental treatments may help keep bacteria levels low, one of the biggest risks of waterborne illness is from other beach users. The City continues to educate the public on proper hygiene and other health practices, which can help maintain a healthy beach environment.

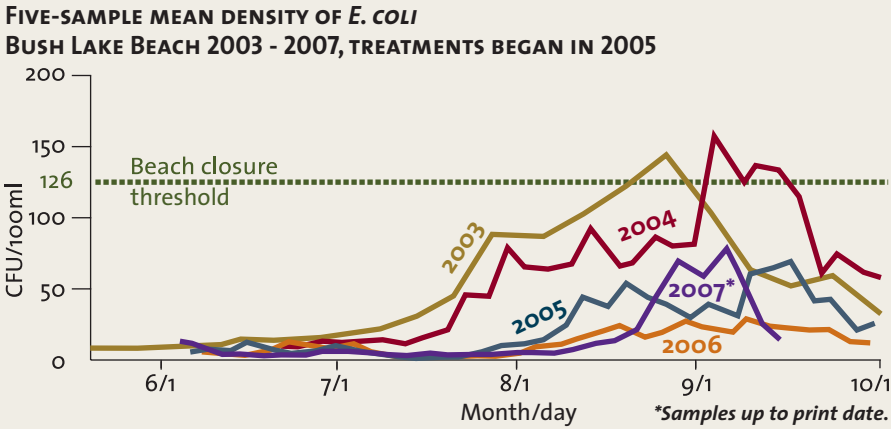


Weather, water temperature and bird presence also cause bacteria levels to rise. Park Maintenance is continuously working to control the goose and gull population at the beach.

For more information, call Jeff Luedeman at 952-563-8977.

BUSH LAKE EARNS TOP HONORS FROM METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
ONE OF THE “10 BEST” IN WATER QUALITY

The Metropolitan Council recently released its 2006 *Lake Water Quality Summary Report*, which provides a summary of monitoring methods, results and lake grading information. More than 200 sites on 186 Twin Cities metro area lakes were monitored by Metropolitan Council staff and volunteers. Of these 200 sites, Bush Lake was one of the 10 best, receiving a grade A for overall water quality.



HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIFESTYLES

PROMOTING FOOD SAFETY IN OUR CITY
BLOOMINGTON FOOD COLLABORATIVE

IN ORDER TO PROMOTE FOOD SAFETY, Environmental Health has organized quarterly meetings to share information with chefs, food service and grocery store managers, school cooks, quality assurance consultants and hotel managers.

Throughout the year, the City’s food inspectors present and lead discussions on emerging food safety issues. Participants are encouraged to ask questions on food safety and sanitation requirements in a risk-free setting. Food-borne illnesses, effective pest control, what inspectors look for during routine

inspections and irradiated beef are just a few of the topics covered.

The key to the success of the collaborative is the development of positive, professional working relationships. Through education and communication, the City is able to improve food safety for everyone.

The highlight of the year is the Food Safety Awards, presented at the annual Diamond Service Awards – the Academy Awards of Bloomington’s food service industry. Receiving an award is a sign of pride and commitment to food safety.



The Sheraton Hotel and Applebee’s at Southtown took top honors in 2007.

“Kitchen Manager Marc Salsbury and I are very proud and honored, especially in Bloomington where standards for food safety and sanitation are so high,” said Applebee’s Manager Jon Lawler.

For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970.

MINNESOTA FREEDOM TO BREATHE
STATEWIDE SMOKING BAN



ON OCTOBER 1, Minnesota Freedom to Breathe went into effect. This new statewide law prohibits smoking in all indoor public places and places of employment. Cities and counties are permitted to have stricter ordinances than the state law, but they cannot be less stringent.

Bloomington’s ordinance, which was passed in 2004, prohibits smoking in workplaces and public places. In addition, it prohibits smoking within 25 feet of entrances and exits, and requires that at least one-half of the seating capacity of outdoor restaurant patios be designated as non-smoking areas.

The City Council reviewed the Bloomington ordinance at a study meeting in September to determine what changes to the ordinance will be required to comply with the new state law. A public hearing will be held on any proposed changes on Monday, October 8.

For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970 or Environmental Health Coordinator Mark Stangenes at 952-563-8980 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Smokefree.

BLOOMINGTON BUSINESS IS ON THE MOVE
EMPLOYEES DISCOVER WALKING HELPS BUILD MORALE AND INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY

“WHEN I GET BACK TO WORK I FEEL refreshed and can accomplish more,” is just one of the praises employees of Alternative Billing Solutions (ABS), a CareCentric Company, are giving to a new office practice of daily walking. Employees also find it improves morale.



More than half of the employees (16 out of 26) at ABS have joined On the Move, a community program that encourages people to be more active, sponsored by Bloomington Public Health and Parks and Recreation. As a result, they are devoting 30 minutes a day to walking around the large parking lot surrounding their building.

Ironically, this practice didn’t start out as a plan to improve office productivity. It just happened as a result of walking.

“I am not surprised by the experience of ABS’s walking program; walking does amazing things,” said

Bloomington Public Health’s Joan Bulfer, organizer of On the Move. “The program encourages an active lifestyle in a social setting. With support from others it is easier to start exercising and make it a part of your life.”

The list of benefits from walking is extensive. In just 30 minutes per day, five to seven days per week, most people will experience more energy, feelings of well-being, reduced stress, a stronger heart, better sleep, appetite control and toned muscles.

For more information, call Health Specialist Joan Bulfer at 952-563-8992.



FALL CLEAN WATER TIPS KEEP YOUR STORM DRAIN FREE OF LITTER AND LEAVES

Some tips to protect our valuable water resources include:

- Rake or sweep leaves and grass from streets, driveways and sidewalks. Never dispose of leaves or grass clippings along shore land or in wetlands.
- If leaves are less than two inches thick on your lawn, consider mulching them by making several passes with a power mower. Your lawn will look raked and the shredded leaves will provide nutrients for your lawn.
- Use fertilizers and pesticides only as needed. Always read and follow product instructions.
- Consider using alternative lawn-care techniques. Pull weeds by hand or spot-treat weedy areas instead of your entire yard.
- Be conscious of phosphorus. Minnesota's Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer Law requires use of phosphorus-free fertilizer on lawns unless soil testing shows a need for it.

These common pollutants wash off yards and streets into storm sewers and pollute our water bodies:

- *Phosphorus* from tree leaves, grass clippings, fertilizer and pet waste.
- *Eroding soil* from exposed soil on construction sites and sparse lawns.
- *Bacteria* from pet and wildlife waste or failing septic systems.
- *Toxins* from oil, paint, cleaners, etc., spilled onto streets and driveways.

For more information, visit www.cleanwatermn.org.

DID YOU KNOW? LIGHTING THE WAY TO SUSTAINABILITY



IN 2001, TRAFFIC Maintenance began swapping more than 700 red bulbs and arrows in City-owned stoplights with new energy-efficient bulbs that save resources and money. Today, more than 70 percent of all of the City's signals (red, yellow and green) are LEDs.

These LEDs or light-emitting diodes, last from five to 10 years longer than incandescent bulbs, which last only about one year. Safety increases because the brighter LEDs are more visible and there is less bulb burnout. In addition, LEDs use only one-sixth as much electricity as the old bulbs, which means big energy cost savings. For more information, call Traffic Maintenance at 952-563-4585.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...

EARTH ACTION HEROES BACKYARD BUCKTHORN ELIMINATORS



BUCKTHORN BUST

Volunteers are needed to participate in a buckthorn removal event, **Saturday, October 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.** at Pond Dakota Mission Park, 401 E. 104th St.

For information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 or e-mail parksrec@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

themselves about the noxious shrub by talking to their neighbors and gathering information at an environmental fair, held by the City in February. They soon learned what they must do – remove the buckthorn, roots and all. Cutting the shrub/tree is only a temporary solution. Seeds remain viable in the ground for up to six years. Saplings need to be removed each year.

Smaller buckthorn can be removed by hand or by weed wrench. If the buckthorn is too overgrown, as was the case with the Christenson's yard that contained some buckthorn trees 20 feet high, it may be necessary to enlist the help of a landscaper or tree contractor.

Now that the Christensons have had their buckthorn professionally removed, they couldn't be happier.

"A lot of people don't want to mess with their yards, but if you want to plant anything or if you want more space, you need to get rid of it," said Pat Christenson.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the City of Bloomington encourage buckthorn removal.

"The City is happy to see residents removing buckthorn from their yards, as so many open spaces are being overtaken by buckthorn," said Public Works Maintenance Project Coordinator Jean Buckley. "We can only control its spread when people take small steps to remove it in their own backyard."

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH BUCKTHORN?

- Competes with native plants for light, moisture and nutrients.
- Forms an impenetrable thicket.
- Destroys wildlife habitat.
- Bears fruit that stains cars, decks and concrete, and contains a laxative that causes birds to deposit undigested seeds, thus spreading more buckthorn.

INTRODUCED TO NORTH AMERICA FROM Europe in the 1800s, common and glossy buckthorn are extremely invasive shrubs that sap light, moisture and nutrients from neighboring plants and trees.

The measures one Bloomington couple took to rid their yard overgrown with buckthorn may seem extreme, but necessary, as buckthorn forms an impenetrable thicket that prevents gardens and trees from thriving.

When Vern and Pat Christenson decided they wanted to re-landscape their Beard Avenue home, they contacted local landscaping companies. They found they were hearing the same thing over and over.

"We were told to first remove all the buckthorn or nothing would grow," said Pat Christenson.

The Christensons educated

IDENTIFYING BUCKTHORN

For help identifying buckthorn, ask someone at your local garden center, call the City at 952-563-8760, or visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Buckthorn.



Glossy or adler buckthorn



Common buckthorn

WEED WRENCHES GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT

Weed Wrenches are often used remove roots from the ground, preventing the invasive plant from returning. The City has Weed Wrenches available for loan. For more information, call Jean Buckley at 952-563-8751.

RECYCLE THE OLD RECYCLING RULES!

REMEMBER THESE RECYCLING TIPS:

- Packages for refrigerated and microwaveable products such as frozen entrees are usually coated in ways that make them unacceptable for recycling. However, boxes from items meant to go in your cupboard (e.g. cereal and cracker boxes) are recyclable.



- Twin City metro area residents recycle almost one million pounds of paper every day, but there is much more that can be recycled.

Recycling paper doesn't just save trees. Production of recycled paper uses 80 percent less water, 65 percent less energy and produces 95 percent less air pollution than paper production using raw materials.



- Some people don't recycle mail because they are concerned about protecting their identity. Mail and other papers are no safer in the trash. If you shred your paper, you can still recycle it. Place it in a closed paper bag and label it "shredded paper."





A FRIGHTENINGLY GOOD TIME
ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

BLOOMINGTON’S ANNUAL CITYWIDE HALLOWEEN PARTY WILL TAKE PLACE ON **Wednesday, October 31, 6 to 8 p.m.**, at Northwestern Health Sciences University, West 84th Street and Penn Avenue South. Preschoolers through fourth graders, accompanied by an adult, are invited to this fun and safe event. Activities include “Trick-or-Treat Alley,” games, prizes, coloring contest awards and much more. Admission is free, but please bring a non-perishable food item for the VEAP Food Shelf.

The event is sponsored by the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club, Northwestern Health Sciences University and City of Bloomington.

The coloring contest and more information are available on the City’s Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Halloween.

AR&LE

THE ADAPTIVE RECREATION AND Learning Exchange offers programs and classes for individuals with disabilities living in the southern metropolitan area. AR&LE sponsors are the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield, and local Community Education Adults with Disabilities programs. A quarterly catalog details its activities. For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS

GALAXY YOUTH CENTERS ARE LOCATED in three middle schools:

- Oak Grove, 1300 W. 106th St.
- Olson, 4551 W. 102nd St.
- Valley View, 8900 Portland Ave.

The centers, a joint effort of Bloomington Schools and the City of Bloomington, provide a safe, nurturing environment for youth, grades six to eight. Activities include music, foosball, table tennis, billiards, video games, arts and crafts, service projects and sports. For more information, call 952-681-6107.



CENTER FOR THE ARTS

LOCATED IN BLOOMINGTON CIVIC PLAZA AT THE CORNER OF WEST 98TH STREET AND OLD Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing eight arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, call 952-563-8567 or visit the City’s Web site, www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Calendar.

BLOOMINGTON ART CENTER (BAC)

Call 952-563-8587 for more information.



Queen Gertrude by Barbara Keith.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY

Awash with Color, featuring Minnesota Watercolor Society, runs through **November 2**. Artists’ reception is Thursday, October 4, 6 - 9 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

Hours:	M - F	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
	Sa	9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
	Su	1 - 10 p.m.

Modern Mosaics, featuring artists Barbara Keith and Michael Sweere, runs



November 16 - December 28. Artists’ reception is Friday, November 16, 6 - 8 p.m.

Rainy Lake by Michael Sweere.



Check out the new Center for the Arts mural that was completed in August.

ATRIUM GALLERY

Drawn from Nature, featuring artist Jan Shoger, runs through **October 28**.



Up Here by Jeff Hirst.

Molten Matter – New Encaustic Paintings, featuring artist Jeff Hirst, runs **November 1 - January 6**.

BLACK BOX THEATER

THE HOLLOW

Gallery Theater Company presents this Agatha Christie mystery, in which an unhappy game of romantic “follow the leader” explodes into murder one weekend. Performances are **Fridays and Saturdays, October 12 - November 3, 7:30 p.m., Sundays, October 14 - November 4, 2 p.m., and Thursday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.**

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER

Gallery Theater Company presents this heartwarming story of an annual church Christmas pageant that brings home the Christmas message in a hilarious new way. Performances are **Fridays and Saturdays, November 30 - December 15, 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, December 2 - 16, 2 p.m.**

SCHNEIDER THEATER

URINETOWN: THE MUSICAL

The Bloomington Civic Theatre presents Urinetown: The Musical. Performances are **Fridays and Saturdays, October 19 - November 17, 7:30 p.m., Thursdays, October 25 - November 15, 7:30 p.m., and Sundays, October 21 - November 11, 2 p.m.**

CONTACT PARKS AND RECREATION AT 952-563-8877 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When: Starts November 27.
Men’s C Tuesdays.
Men’s D Wednesdays.
Men’s C Thursdays.
Men’s D Sundays.

Cost: \$525 per team.

Deadline: November 2.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL LEAGUE

When: Mondays, beginning November 26.

Where: Bloomington Armory, 3300 W. 98th St.

Cost: \$525 per team.

Deadline: November 2.

SENIOR MEN’S VOLLEYBALL

THE BORN AGAIN JOCKS VOLLEYBALL League welcomes men, 55 years and over, who have all levels of playing ability. Call Dick Wortman at 952-888-1814.

When: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, October 8 - April 25.

Time: Warm-up 8:45 a.m.
Games 9 a.m.

Where: Jefferson H. S. Activity Center, 102nd St. and France Ave. S.

SPECIAL EVENTS

HOLIDAY ART SALE



Come and browse a wide variety of beautiful handmade items at the Holiday Art Sale located in the Inez Greenberg Gallery. Hours are **November 5, 7 - 10 p.m., November 6 - 10, 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., and November 11, 1 - 5:30 p.m.**

TANGO FOR ART GALA

This fund-raising benefit for the Bloomington Arts Center programs takes place **Friday, October 12, 6 - 11 p.m.** at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. Enjoy fabulous Latin cuisine, a tango performance, and silent and live auctions.



ANGELICA CANTANTI

Angelica Cantanti, a Bloomington-based youth choir organization of some of the best vocal ensembles in the nation, will hold two special workshops at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Blvd. *Especially for Women* will be held **Saturday, October 27, 12 - 4 p.m.** *Real Men Sing 2* will be held **Sunday, October 28, 1 - 4:30 p.m.**

2007 GENERAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6
POLLS OPEN 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

CANDIDATES AND REFERENDUMS
ON THE BALLOT *order varies by precinct*

- MAYOR**
- Gene Winstead
 - Jeff Andrews
- COUNCILMEMBER, AT LARGE**
- Amy Darr Grady
 - Ray Heinonen
- COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT III***
- Steve Elkins
- COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT IV***
- Carlan Lesch
 - Vern Wilcox

**On ballot of voters who reside in this district.*

- BLOOMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT #271**
- Chuck Walter
 - Jim Sorum
 - Maureen Bartolotta

- REFERENDUM QUESTIONS**
- Operating Levy
 - Technology Levy

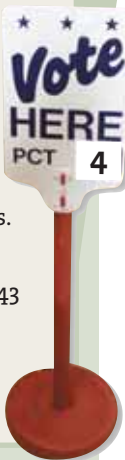
*For referendum information, call
Bloomington Schools at 952-681-6400 or
visit www.bloomingtonschools.info.*

SAMPLE BALLOT

To view a sample ballot for your precinct, visit our Web site at www.ci.bloomington.mn.us, keyword: Voting.

NEW POLLING SITE
PRECINCT 4 CHANGE

Residents in Precinct 4 will be voting at a new location this year. Precinct 4 is the area from I-494 to 86th Street between Lyndale and Portland Avenues. Voters who formerly voted at Emmaus Lutheran Church, 8443 2nd Ave. S., will now vote at Unity South Church, 7950 1st Ave. S.



VOTING ASSISTANCE

VOTING ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AT the polling places to accommodate persons with disabilities. Ask the election judges if you need assistance. All polling places are accessible and have AutoMARK voter assist terminals to help voters who have disabilities in marking the optical scan paper ballot.

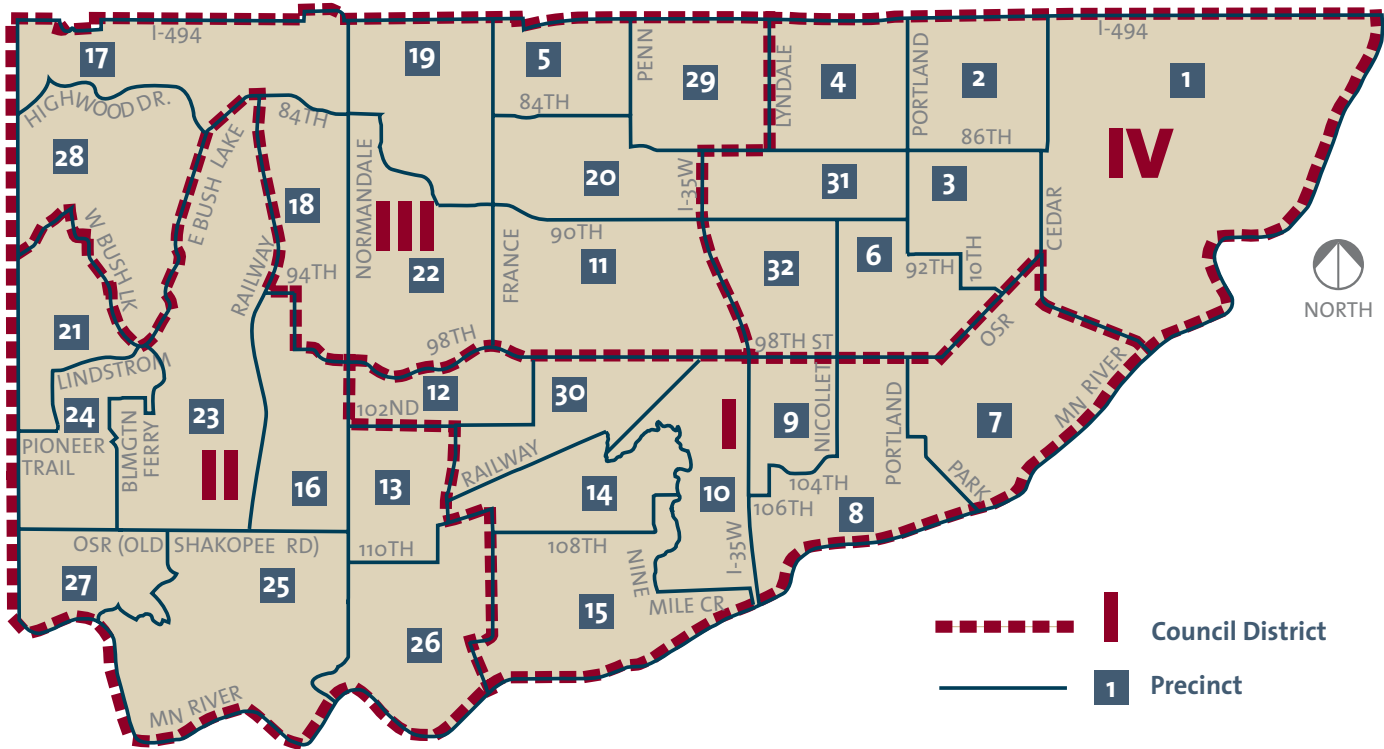
FAQS ABOUT VOTING

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

- You may vote if you are:
- At least 18 years of age.
 - A U.S. citizen.
 - A Minnesota resident for at least 20 days before the election.
 - A convicted felon whose sentence has been completed or discharged.
 - Not under court-ordered guardianship in which court order revokes your right to vote.
 - Not legally incompetent.

2007 BLOOMINGTON POLLING PLACES

VOTING INFORMATION: 952-563-8729 – WWW.BLOOMINGTON.MN.US, KEYWORD: VOTING



Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
1 MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge 3815 East 80th Street	West entrance Visitor lot (W)
2 Portland Avenue Methodist Church 8000 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
3 Cedar Valley Church 8600 Bloomington Avenue	South entrance – Door E, South lot
4 Unity Church South 7960 1st Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
5 Southtown Baptist Church 2600 West 82nd Street	Main entrance (E) East lot
6 Bloomington Lutheran Church 9350 Portland Avenue South	Main entrance South lot
7 Indian Mounds Elementary School 9801 - 11th Avenue South	Main entrance (N) Northwest lot
8 Riverside Reformed Church 10201 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance East lot
9 Nativity of Mary School 9901 East Bloomington Freeway	NE school entrance NE lot
10 St. Luke’s Lutheran Church 1701 West Old Shakopee Road	NE entrance North lot
11 Bloomington Christian Church 9000 West Bloomington Freeway	South entrance South lot
12 Crosspoint Church 9801 France Avenue South	Main entrance (E) East lot
13 Hubert Olson Elementary School 4501 West 102nd Street	Main entr. (NW) West lot – disabled use front drive
14 Mount Hope Lutheran Church 3601 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance (S) South lot
15 Westwood Elementary School 3701 West 108th Street	Main entrance (N) West lot
16 Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church 9920 Normandale Boulevard South	NE entrance (left doors) North lot

Precinct/Polling location	Entrance/Parking
17 Peace Lutheran Church 8600 East Bush Lake Road	Main entrance North lot
18 The Church of St. Edward’s 9401 Nesbitt Avenue South	SW entrance – upper level, SW lot
19 St. Stephen Lutheran Church 8400 France Avenue South	Main entrance (W) West lot
20 Washburn Elementary School 8401 Xerxes Avenue South	Main entrance NE lot
21 Sunrise Park Shelter 9401 Bloomington Ferry Road	Only entrance (N) North lot
22 Normandale Hills Elem. School 9501 Toledo Avenue South	Main entrance West lot
23 Community of the Cross Lutheran Church 10701 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (N) North lot
24 Bloomington Lutheran School 10600 Bloomington Ferry Road	Main entrance (S) S lot - disabled use East side
25 Bethany Missionary Church 6900 Auto Club Road	West entrance W and N lots
26 Southwood Center 4901 West 112th Street	West entrance West lot
27 Bethany Missionary Gymnasium 6900 Auto Club Road	Main entrance South lot
28 Bloomington Fire Station #6 8601 Lakeview Road	Main entrance N. lot and Street
29 Christ the King Lutheran Church 8600 Fremont Avenue South	SW entrance Southwest lot
30 Oak Grove Presbyterian Church 2200 West Old Shakopee Road	Main entrance Northeast lot
31 St. Bonaventure Catholic Church 901 East 90th Street (Social Hall)	Main entrance East lot
32 Oxboro Evangelical Free Church 9431 Nicollet Avenue South	North entrance North lot

CAN I VOTE BY ABSENTEE BALLOT?

You can vote by absentee ballot if you are unable to vote in person on Election Day because you are:

- Absent from the precinct.
- Disabled or ill.
- An election judge serving in another precinct.
- Unable to go to the polling place due to a religious holiday or belief.

Absentee ballot applications are available at City Hall or on the City’s Web site, keyword: Voting.